

Aho-Girl

\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

A clueless girl.



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4 | Hiroyuki



CHARACTER PROFILES

AHO-GIRL's
Cast of Characters



Name **Akuru Akutsu (Akkun)**

Memo

Childhood friend of Yoshiko, who lives next door. Plays the aggravated straight man to Yoshiko's absurdity. Tries to cure Yoshiko of her stupidity, but despite all his effort, it's not going very well.



Name **Yoshiko Hanabatake**

Memo

An inexpressibly clueless high school girl. Favorite food: bananas. Has been friends with Akkun since they were kids, and is in love with him. Lives entirely by impulse. Tends to enjoy life too much.

HIROYUKI
PRESENTS
AHO-GIRL
VOLUME 4



Name **Ryuichi Kurosaki**

Memo

An unfortunate hooligan who knows nothing of human kindness and therefore was easily won over by Yoshiko. Seems to want to be friends with Akkun, but there's not much hope for that.



Name **Sayaka Sumino**

Memo

Yoshiko's friend. She's a very kind girl. She knows her kindness lands her in all sorts of trouble, yet she remains kind. Worries about being boring.



Name **Yoshie Hanabatake**

Memo

Yoshiko's mother. While she does worry about Yoshiko, she's far more worried about her own sunset years. Will use any means necessary to fix Yoshiko up with Akkun.



Name **Head Monitor**

Memo

An upperclassman at Yoshiko's school. Has fallen head over heels for Akkun and begun to stray from the moral path, but she doesn't realize it. G cup.



Name **Atsuko Oshieda**

Memo

Homeroom teacher for Yoshiko and Akkun's class. Teaches math. She is passionate about education, but has a tendency to treat things far too seriously. Has always attended all-girls schools, and so has no romantic experience.



Name **Ruri Akutsu**

Memo

While her brother Akkun is an overachiever, Ruri's not quite so fortunate. She is constantly dismayed by her terrible grades. Perhaps the day will come when all her hard work pays off. Hates Yoshiko.



Name **Kids from the Park**

Memo

Yoshiko's play friends. These three kids include two very serious, grown-up boys concerned by Yoshiko's idiocy, and a girl named Nozomi who idolizes her. Can often be found playing at the park.



Name **Dog**

Memo

A ridiculously big dog Yoshiko found at the park. Started out vicious, but once vanquished by Yoshiko, has become docile. Is quite clever and tries to stop Yoshiko from her wilder impulses.

AHO-GIRL CONTENTS



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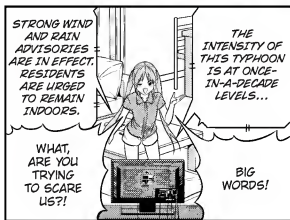
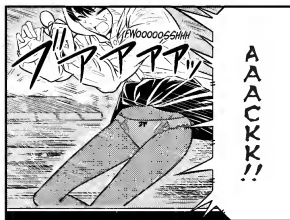
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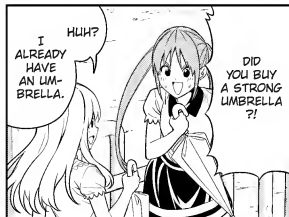
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Special Edition:
Be-Bop Banana
Froppuccino
Deluxe

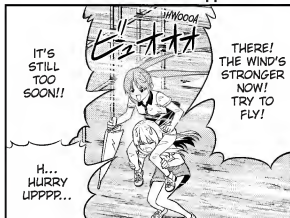
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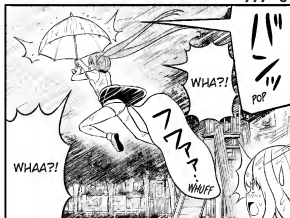


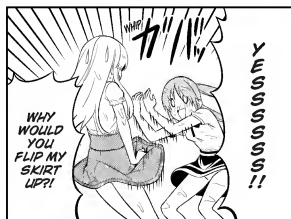
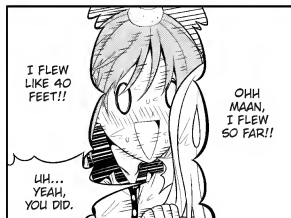
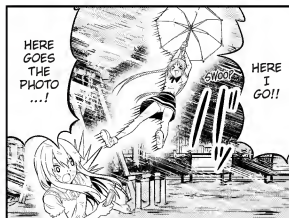
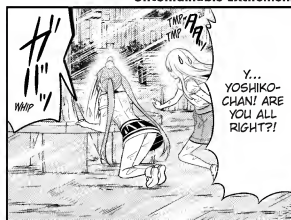












So Happy

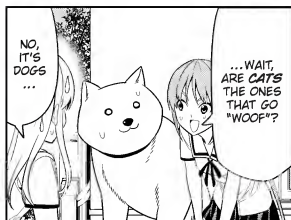
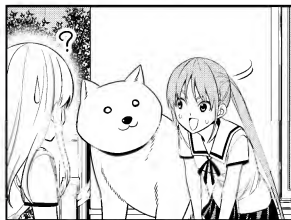
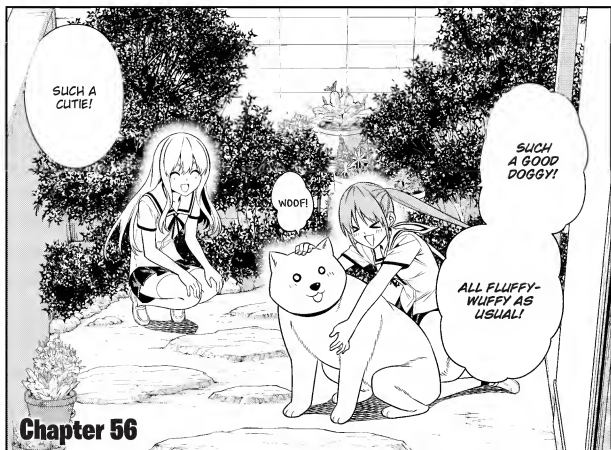


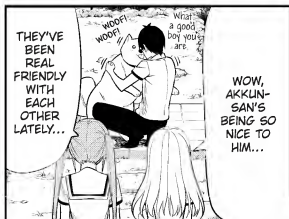
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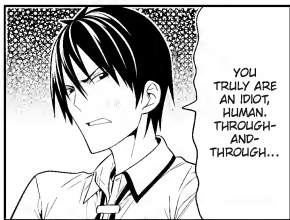
Aho-Girl

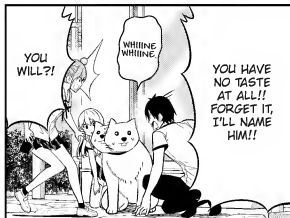
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

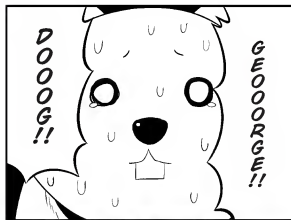
A clueless girl.

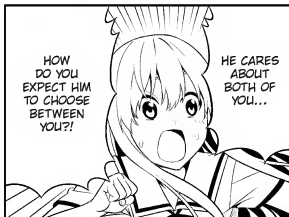




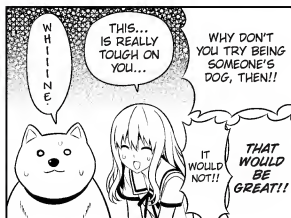








The Fighting Will Never End

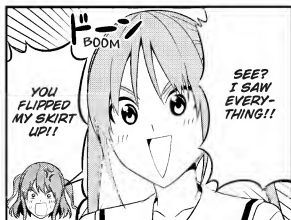
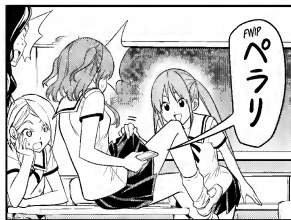


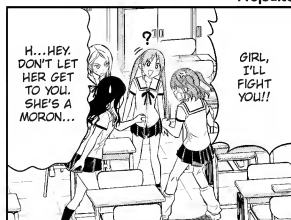
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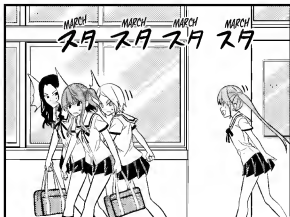
Aho-Girl

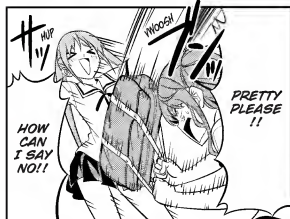
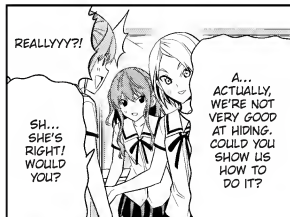
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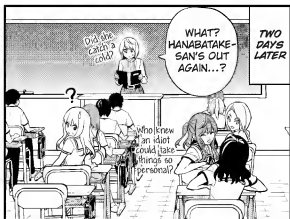
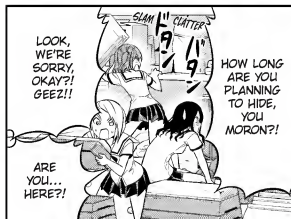
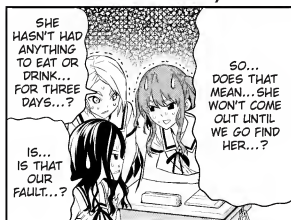
A clueless girl.

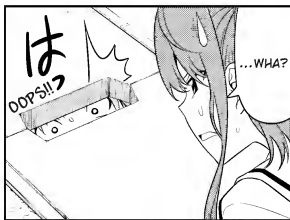
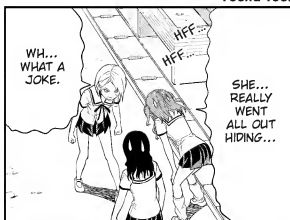




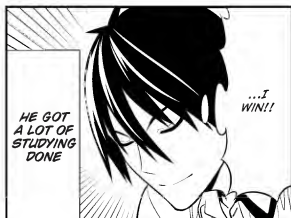








This Has Happened Before



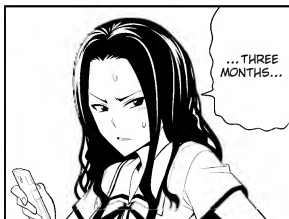
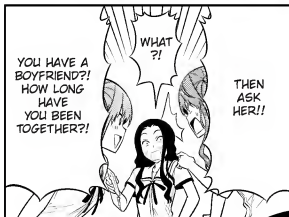
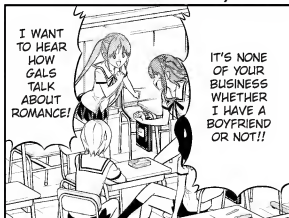
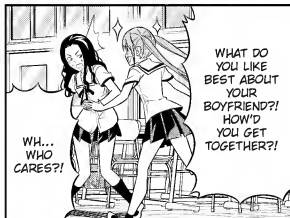
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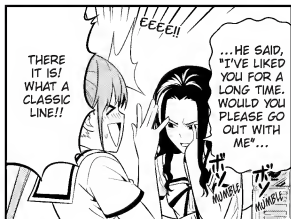
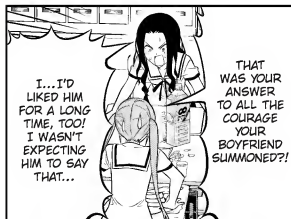
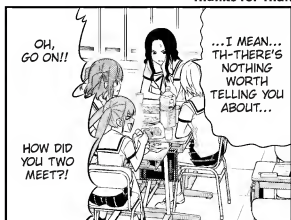
Aho-Girl

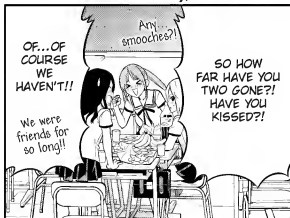
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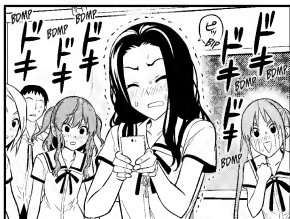
A clueless girl.

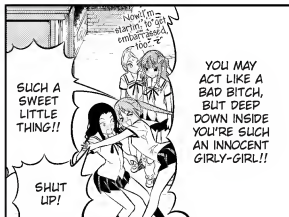
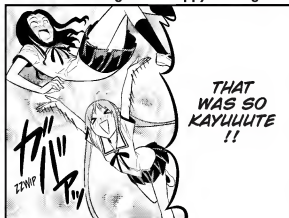












I'm Blushing



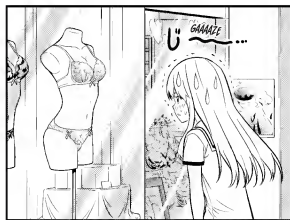
(Aobee, Kisuke,)

Aho-Girl

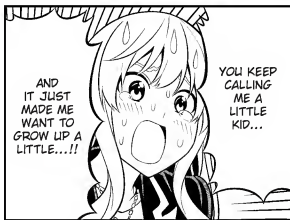
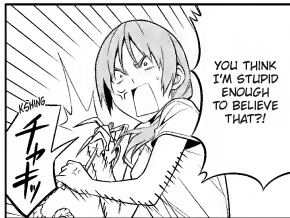
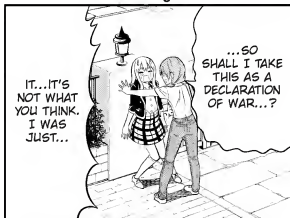
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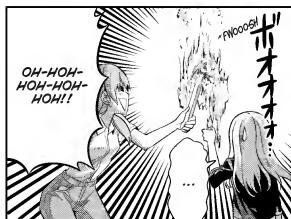
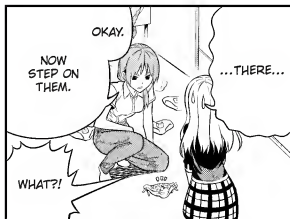
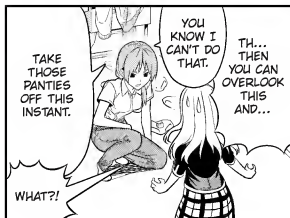
A clueless girl.

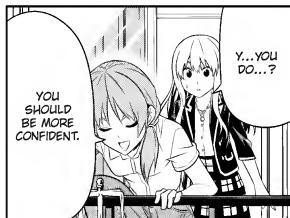












Well, of Course You Would



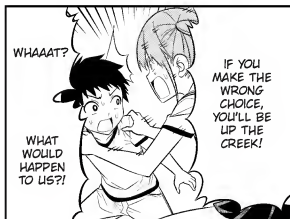
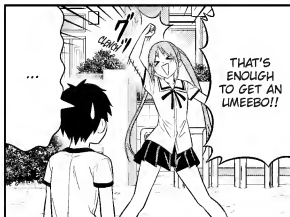
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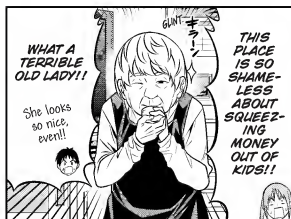
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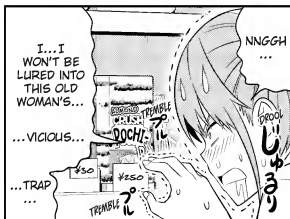
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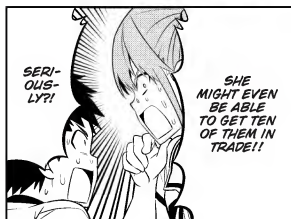
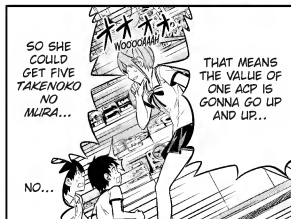
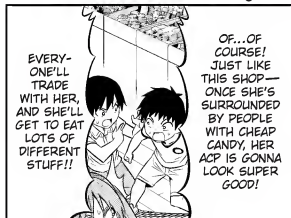
A clueless girl.













Breaker of Bonds

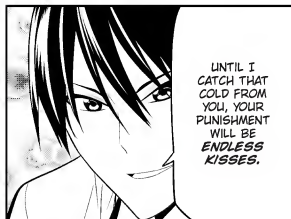


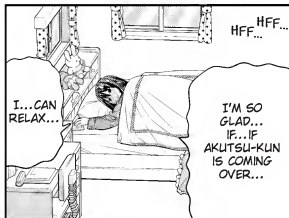
(Chocolate chocolate chocolate is my)

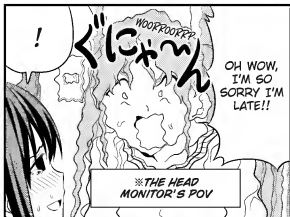
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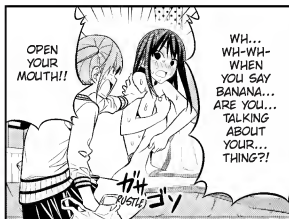
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A clueless girl.

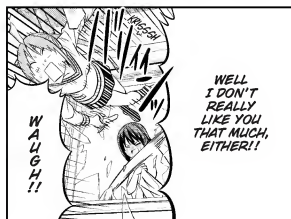
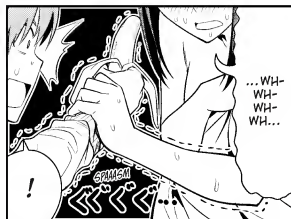




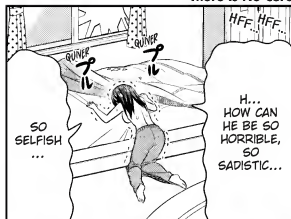








There Is No Cure



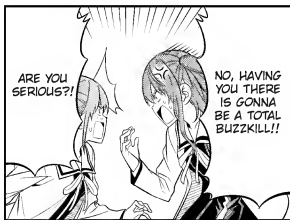
(Priority one: sleep. Priority two:)

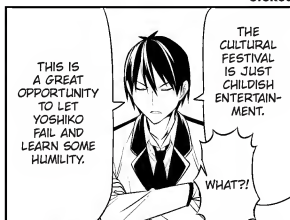
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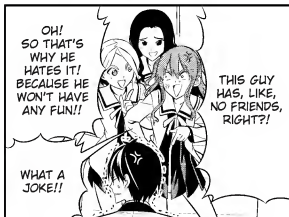
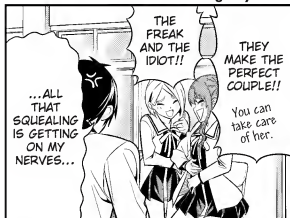
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A clueless girl.

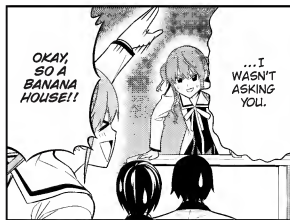




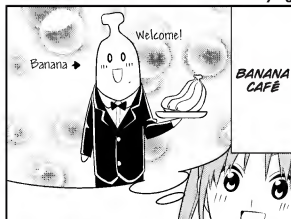








Horrifying

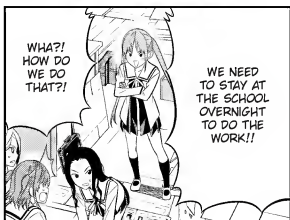


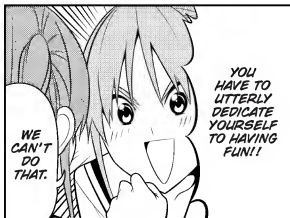
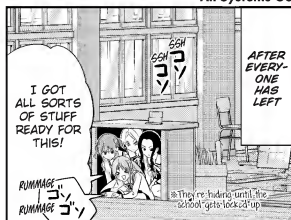
(Pure LOVE Academy: Maiden Heart)

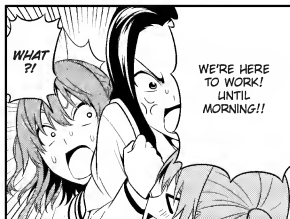
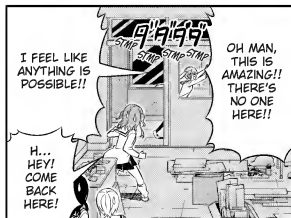
Aho-Girl

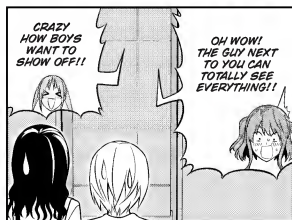
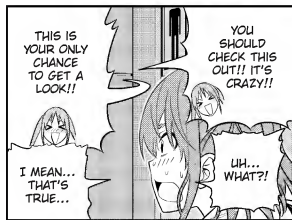
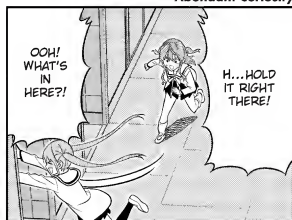
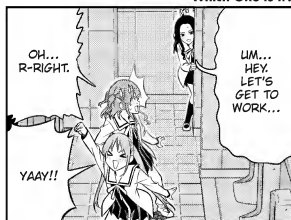
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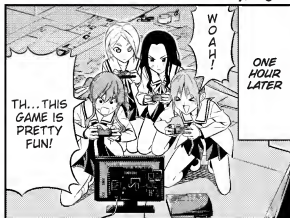
A clueless girl.











TH...THIS
GAME IS
PRETTY
FUN!

WOAH!

ONE
HOUR
LATER



C'MON,
DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
THAT!!

BUT THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN I'M
GOING TO!!

We have
work to
do.



Y...
YEAH,
PROBA-
BLY...

HEY, OH!
MAYBE WE
SHOULD GET
TO WORK
SOON.

THREE
HOURS
LATER

REALLY?!



WHAT?!

WELL...IT'S
GONNA BE A
LONG NIGHT. IF
YOU WANT, WE
COULD PLAY A
LITTLE BIT...?



BUT
THE MOST
INTERESTING
PART IS
COMING
UP!!



YOU
MEAN
IT?!



UM...
OKAY...

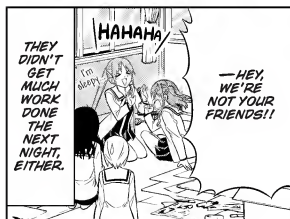
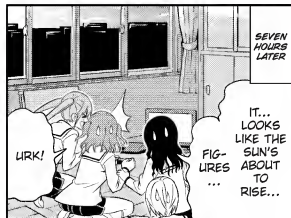
W...WE'LL
GET TO THE
WORK AFTER
THIS, FOR
SURE!



I'VE
NEVER
SEEN
SUCH A
HUGE
SMILE
ON HER
FACE...

Okay,
just for a
little while
then!!

UH...
SURE...



One Hour Isn't Enough

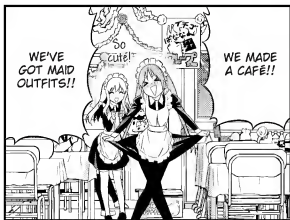


(Just Like James Dean)

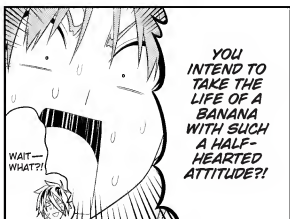
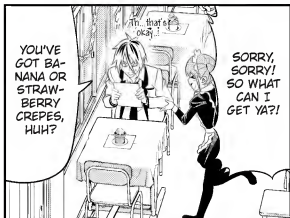
Aho-Girl

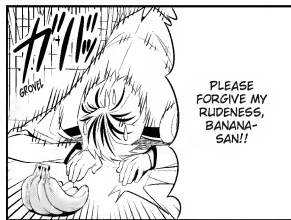
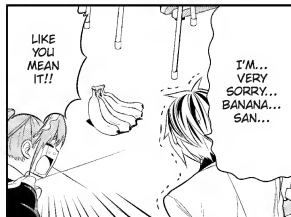
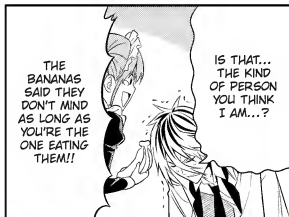
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

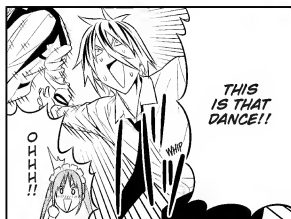
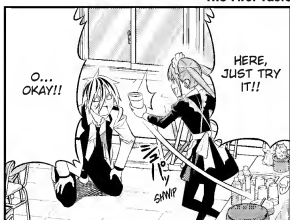
A clueless girl.













Grades Have Been Assigned



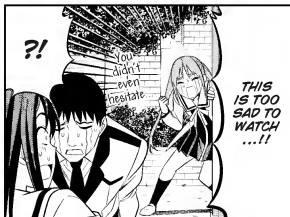
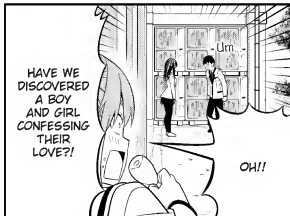
(Warrior princess)

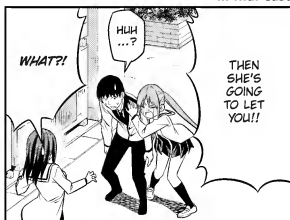
Aho-Girl

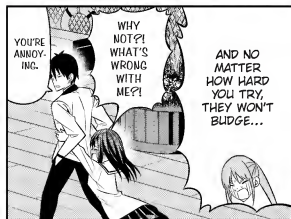
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

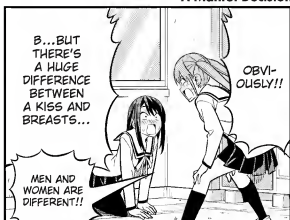
A clueless girl.

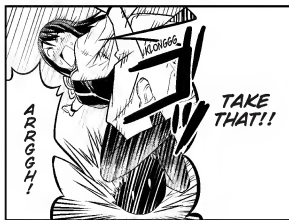




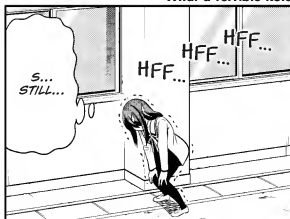








What a Terrible Rule



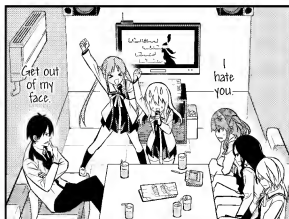
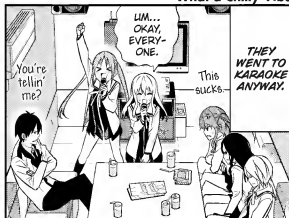
(La'cryma)

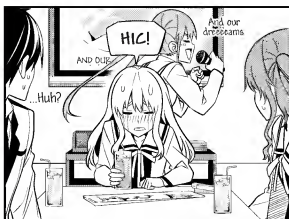
Aho-Girl

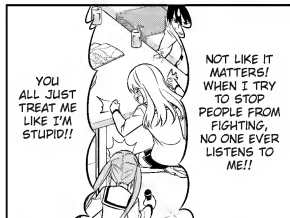
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

A clueless girl.

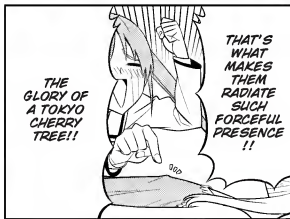
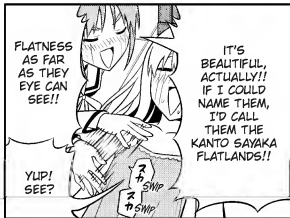




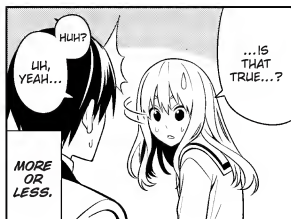








The Eternal Light of Super Sayaka



(We drink, drinking it in, and drinking it in, we drink)

Aho-Girl

\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

A clueless girl.





MY NAME
IS YOSHIKO
HANABATAKE!!
I'M FOUR!!

NICE
TO MEET
YOU!!



WHAT A
WEIRDO
...

AFTER
FOUR
COMES
FIVE...

WHO
DECIDED
THAT?!

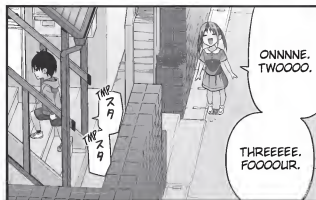
REALLY
?! GOD.



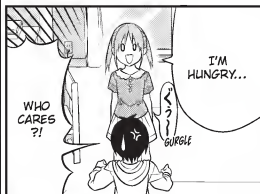
NOW
YOSHIKO,
YOU KNOW
YOU'RE
FIVE.

I
AM?!

WHAT'S
FIVE,
AGAIN?!









OH, GOD...
BANANA...



S'THE
BEST
THING
I EVER
TASTED!!

OH
WOW
THIS
IS SO
GOOD!!

YOU
KIDDING
ME?!



GROSS!



OH!!



I...I CAN'T
BELIEVE YOU'D
GIVE ME
SOMETHING SO
YUMMY...





YOU'RE
SO
CREEPY
!!

I LIKE
YOU TOO,
AKKUN!!



SO
FAST!!

C'MERE!



THERE'S
NO REASON
TO ACT
SO SHY.
♡

AGGGH!!



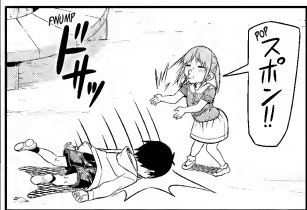
H...
HEY,
YOU'RE
NOT
GONNA...



OH
NO—!

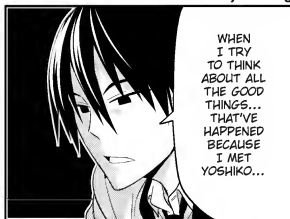


びしょ





So Basically Nothing



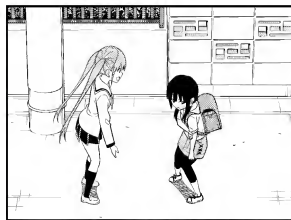
(4000 6000 6000 2000)

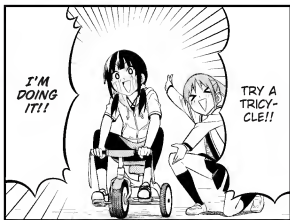
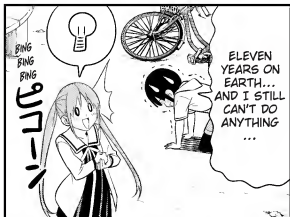
Aho-Girl

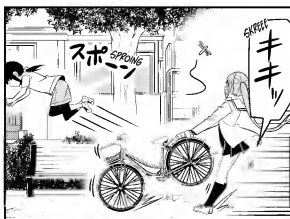
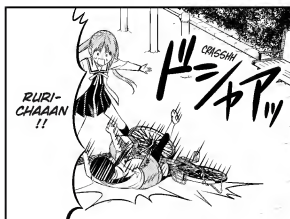
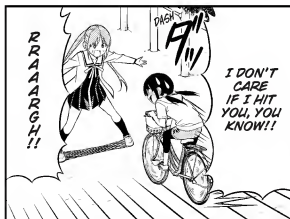
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

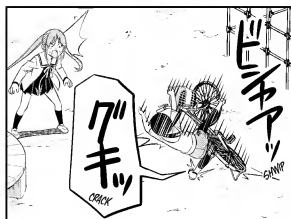
A clueless girl.













It Requires Technique



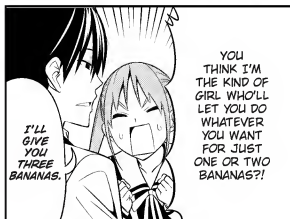
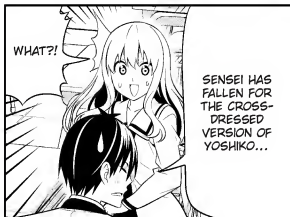
(I want to ride my)

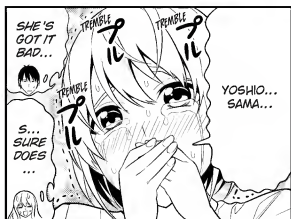
Aho-Girl

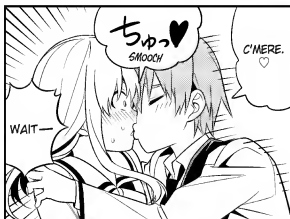
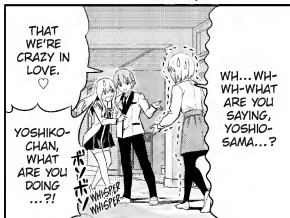
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

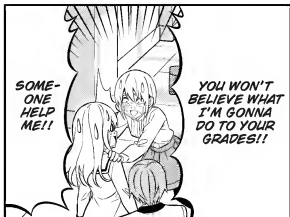
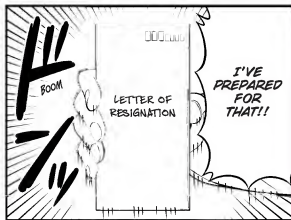
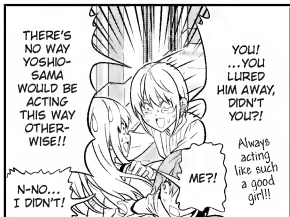
A clueless girl.





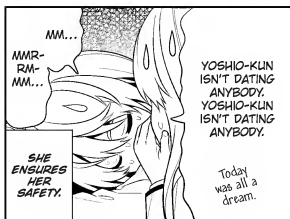








Subliminal Messaging



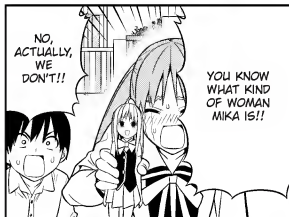
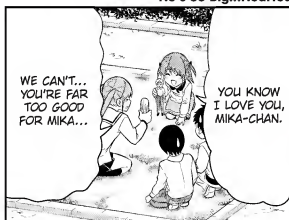
(Etchy sketchy)

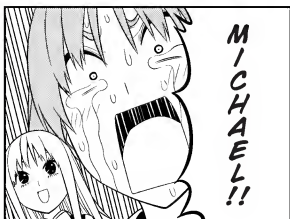
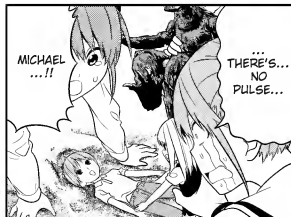
Aho-Girl

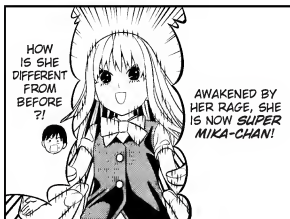
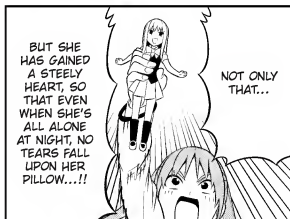
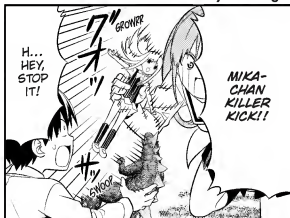
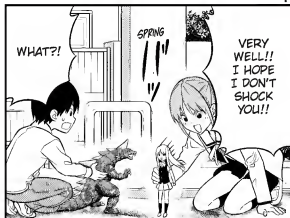
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

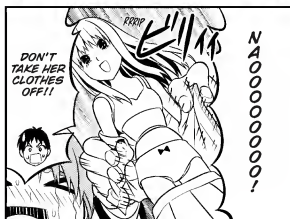
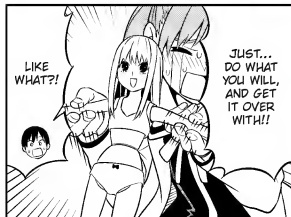
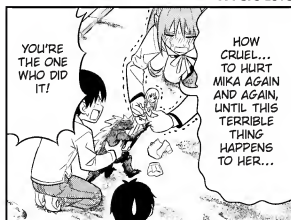
A clueless girl.

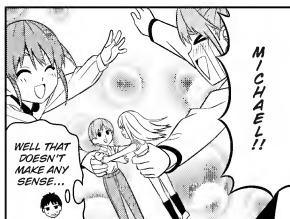
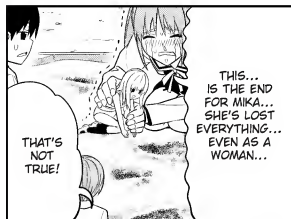




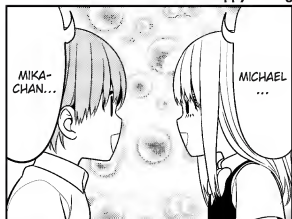








Happy Ending



(The Giants, the Great Bird, and)

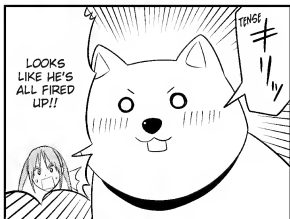
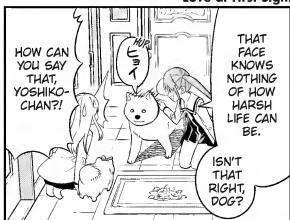
Aho-Girl

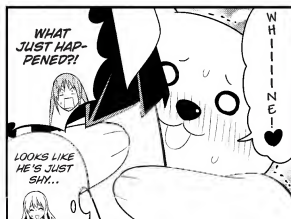
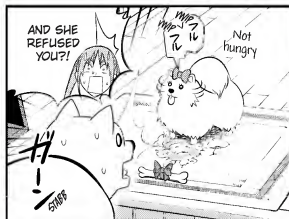
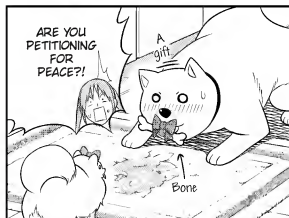
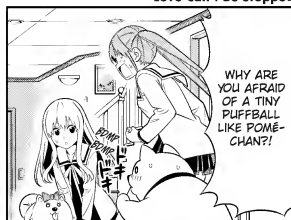
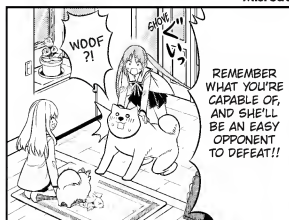
\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

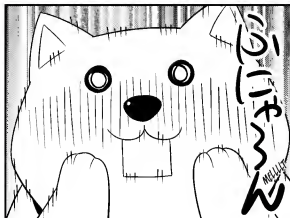
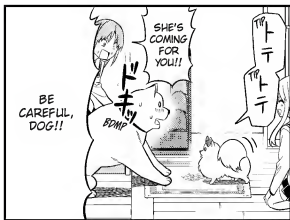
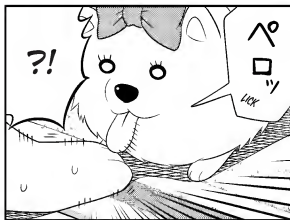
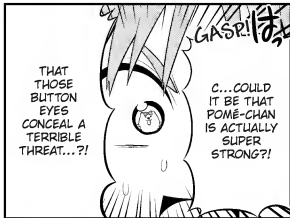
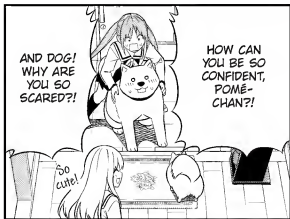
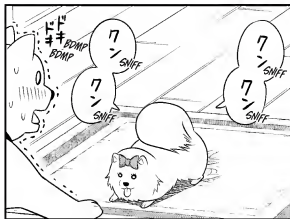
A clueless girl.

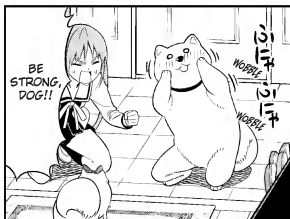
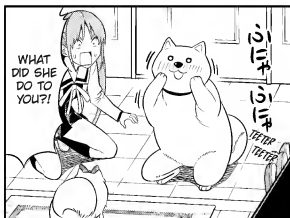












Akkun Is Shocked, Too

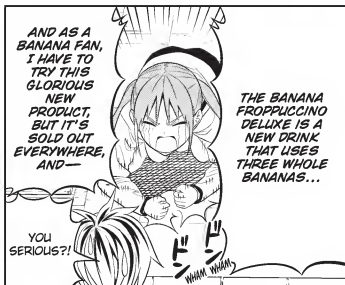


(One hundred and one)

Aho-Girl

\ 'ahô,gərl \ *Japanese, noun.*

A clueless girl.





SPECIAL EDITION
BE-BOP BANANA FROPPUCCINO DELUXE





RYUICHI-KUN?!



WHAT
HAPPENED
TO YOU,
RYUICHI-KUN?!

B...
BOSS
LADY...



?!



BUT A BUNCH
OF GESU HIGH
GUYS WERE
LOOKIN' FOR
IT TOO, I
GUESS...AND
THAT'S THEIR
TERRITORY...

I FOUND...
ONE BANANA
FROPPUCCINO...
IN THE NEXT
NEIGHBORHOOD
OVER...



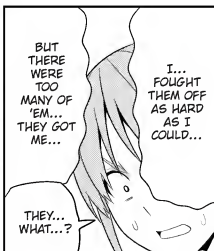
WH...
WHAT IN
THE WORLD
HAPPENED?!

S...
SORRY,
BOSS
LADY...



I RAN ALL
OVER THE
PLACE, BOSS
LADY...TRYIN'
TO MAKE YOU
HAPPY...

CLASH
CLASH



BUT
THERE
WERE
TOO
MANY OF
'EM...
THEY GOT
ME...

I...
FOUGHT
THEM OFF
AS HARD
AS I
COULD...

THEY...
WHAT...?



IT
WAS
HUMILI-
ATING!!



AND
THE GUY SAID
"IT JUST
TASTES LIKE
BANANAS,
AFTER
ALL THAT.
NOTHING
SPECIAL."

...PLUS...
THEY... THEY
DRANK SOME
OF IT...

AND THEN
HE THREW
IT OUT,
RIGHT IN
FRONT OF
ME...



I UNDER-
STAND...
WHY
YOU'RE SO
UPSET...

...I
SEE...







THEY
WHAT...?



S...
SUDO-SAN!
EMERGENCY!!
THAT GUY WE
BEAT UP...ONE
OF HIS FRIENDS
IS HERE TO
RETALIATE!!



WAAARGGH!!



YER
DEALIN' WITH
THE FOUR
GODS OF
GESU HIGH,
AND WE'RE A
BIG DEAL.

DON'T
GET A BIG
HEAD JUST
BECAUSE YOU
MANAGED TO
TAKE OUT A
COUPLE OF
FLUNKIES,
GIRL...



YOU
WHAT?!

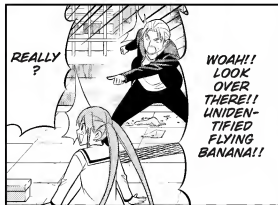
I'LL TAKE
ALL FOUR
OF YOU
ON AT
ONCE.



...YOU
MUST BE
SUDO...









I'LL
KILL
YOU!!



AKKUN
PUNCHES ME
A HUNDRED
TIMES
HARDER
THAN THAT...



YEAAAAHA-
HAHAH!!

WHAT A
MORON!!



HUH?!

...YOU...
THINK
YOU HURT
ME...?



Continued in volume 5!

(Come back and see us in volume 5)

Aho-Girl

\ahô,gərl\ *Japanese, noun.*

A clueless girl.

I had no plan.



And then I found myself enrolled in a manga school.

※Summary of previous chapters

I received a business card from an editor, so I found myself headed to Tokyo.

And no one's gonna come nag me!!

BLUP BLUP
うんうん

I can play all night if I want!



I can play video games as much as I want!!

BLUP BLUP
うんうん

Oh man!!

First taste of independence in Tokyo



BLUP BLUP
うんうん

HURRAAAN!!!

I'd wake up after noon and—



...Gotta go to school, but... no way I can move...

CHIRUP CHIRUP
うんうん

Morning



Let's try a remake of that last thing I did!

SKRITCH
スクリッチ
カキ



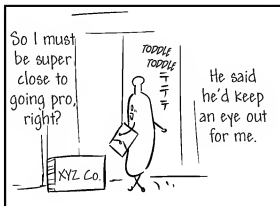
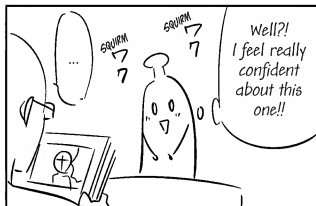
Cool! So this time...

Sometimes I would remember what I was doing there.

...I should probably draw some comics or something...

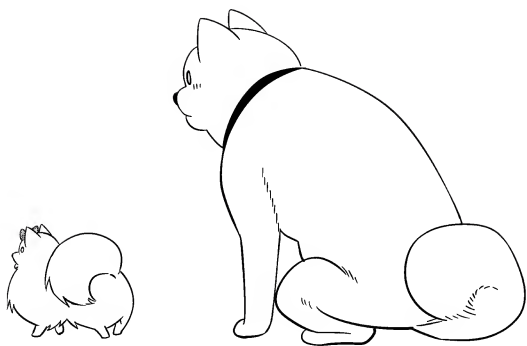
Oh!





To be continued





Page 14

"Sayaka's Leveling up Her Straight Man Skills!"

See the discussion of tsukkami above, regarding Akkun's character meme on page 2.

Page 14

"What about Dogs A through D?!"

This joke has been localized. In the original Japanese, the joke hinges on a cute word for a dog: wan-chan. The word is derived from the anamatapaeia for barking (wan wan) and the diminutive name suffix -chan. Coincidentally, this Japanese word sounds a lot like a Chinese name as pronounced in Japanese, where the name Wang is pronounced "Wan." Therefore, Yashika seems ignorant of the common word "wan-chan" (analogous to puppy) and instead thinks she's hearing a Chinese name along the lines of "Chen Wang." Yashika being ignorant of the word "wan-chan" is roughly as ridiculous as not knowing the word "daggy."

Page 20

"Nyan to Wonderful"

The name of a series of video games that began on PlayStation 1, *Nyan to Wonderful* is a pet care simulator released in 1996. The name is a partial pun on the Japanese anamatapaeia for a cat's meow (nyan) and a dog's barking (wan wan), and the Japanese pronunciation of the English word "wonderful" (wandafuru).

Page 21

"Gals"

The term "gal" (Japanese: "gyaru") refers to a broad segment of popular youth culture in Japan that began in the mid-1990s. The term encompasses many distinct subcultures with different stereotyped behaviors (such as extreme tanning, bleached-white hair, or casual dating in exchange for spending money) that are considered contrary to prevailing Japanese morality. In general, though, most people who are labeled by the term "gal" merely subscribe to a particular fashion aesthetic characterized by loose socks (the familiar slouchy socks that hang loose around the ankles), lightly bleached hair, extensive nail art or cell phone bangles, and—of particular relevance here—school uniform skirts that are rolled up at the waist to be scandalously short.

Page 28

"Mash! Ortega!"

These are the names of a team of three elite Zeon pilots in the *Mobile Suit Gundam* universe, who comprise a team called the Black Tri-Stars. Mash and Ortega are joined in their daring flights not by *Aha-Girl*, but by Gaia.

Translation Notes

Page 2

"Aggravated straight man"

This is an explanatory gloss of the Japanese term "tsukkami." The tsukkami and bake duo are a common trope in manzai-style stand-up comedy routines. The bake, like Yashika, draws over-the-top and just plain stupid conclusions to the tsukkami's set-ups. The tsukkami tries to remain calm and reasonable during the act, but is invariably pushed into extreme and sometimes violent reactions out of his frustration.

Page 3

"Head Monitor"

The head monitor's title in Japanese includes the word fuuki, which roughly translates to "moral order" or "discipline." She would not be merely checking for hall passes the way a hall monitor in a Western school might, and would be more broadly responsible for reporting anything in violation of the moral standards of the institution.

Page 5

"Kanto region"

This is the region of Japan where Tokyo is located. In addition to Tokyo, the region also encompasses six other prefectures (Gunma, Tochigi, Ibaraki, Saitama, Chiba, and Kanagawa).

Page 10

"Double Peace"

Flashing the double peace sign in pictures is a common pose for photos. Where in America we would say "cheese" and everyone smiles and picks their pose, in Japan it's common for people to put up a peace sign. The double peace sign is also great to express your enthusiasm... except when you're holding onto an umbrella in midair.

Page 12

"Ah! Ah! Arashiii! Game Center"

This quote is from the opening theme song to the 1982 anime series *Game Center Arashi*, which was based on a manga running from 1978 to 1984. The series followed the protagonist, a boy named Arashi (meaning "storm"), who was an early video game enthusiast, spending all his time at arcades and challenging others to achieve new high scores. The series was perhaps the earliest to deal with competitive video game players, and helped to popularize video games when they were still a new innovation.

Japanese culture, he is pursued by the child ani (monster or demon) trio who are trying to retrieve an artifact the prince stole from King Enmu, the Buddhist judge of the dead and ruler of the underworld.

Page 38

"The Real—Really Real—"

This title refers to a song titled "Mojito Sunshine" by Hey! Say! JUMP, released in 2016. The song title takes advantage of Japanese furigana, which is usually a sort of pronunciation guide written in smaller characters above the main text. The more ordinary word "real" is provided a furigana reading of a longer term for "real." Because the furigana is the pronunciation guide, the title of the song in Japanese ends up being romanized as "Mojito Sunshine."

Page 40

"Sure Death: The Professional"

This is the title of a jidoigeki (period piece, usually featuring samurai) TV series that ran from 1979 to 1981. The series follows the adventures of the assassin Mondo Nokomuro and his colleagues in Edo-ero (1603 to 1868) Tokyo. Several movie adaptations of the Sure Death series are available in English, the first under the title Hissatsu: Sure Death.

"Sneaking in to visit my husband at night"

The term used here (yobai, literally "night crawling") enjoys a storied history in Japanese literature and culture. Made most famous in the West by the classical Japanese masterwork *The Tale of Genji*, yobai is a romantic practice in which a man sneaks into the bedroom of his intended at night, after the rest of her household has gone to sleep, so that the two may enjoy a tryst presumably unbeknownst to her family. The relationship may or may not progress to marriage, but in the rigid formality of pre-industrial Japanese society where public displays of affection were extremely frowned-upon, yobai was one of the only avenues of romance available. Given this cultural context, the practice would be considered ludicrously old-fashioned for someone in modern Japan to be engaged in.

Page 41

"Obasan"

This is a respectful form of address for an older (but not old) woman, meaning "aunt." Contrast to oboosan for "grandmother" and boboo for a more disrespectful term along the lines of "hag."

Page 46

"Umeebō"

This is a riff on a staple Japanese confection, "Umebō." The confection's name more or less means "delicious stick," but

Page 30

"Is This... Time for Girl-talk?!"

The original title refers to a joshikai (literally "girl meeting"), which is somewhat like a "girls' night out" in English, but can refer to any get-together intended only for the ladies.

Page 31

"Thanks for That!"

This is a play on the Japanese phrase conventionally used after finishing a meal. However, the phrase is derived from a Japanese verb meaning "to humbly receive" and can be used as such, sarcastically or not.

"Well That's No Good"

The titles along this line are based in the Japanese title, ダメ出し (damedoshi), which more literally means "finding fault with something" and especially pointing it out for attention. The word is also a homophone for ダメだし (damedoshi), which would translate into the "Well That's No Good" of the English title. Since saying "that's no good" is on occasion finding fault, we decided to go with that.

Page 32

"You Have to Tell Him"

The Japanese phrase used for the title (kuchi ni dashite) is translated here in accordance with its meaning, "to communicate something verbally." However, as those with more familiarity with Japanese may have noticed, the phrase could be more literally, but artificially, translated as "use your mouth." No doubt this particular gag wouldn't pick up on the more suggestive implication, since she's so shy about just talking.

Page 34

"Can You Hear Me Now?"

The Japanese gag here is a reference to the 1997 song "Colling" by the Japanese rock band B'z. A refrain in the song asks "Can you hear this (my) voice?" Given the obscurity of this reference to a North American audience, we muddled the joke into a more contemporary reference to an old slogan you may recognize.

Page 36

"Aobee, Kisuke,"

This is a reference to *Ojarumaru*, a yonkoma (i.e., four-panel, the same format as *Aho-Girl*) manga series, which features a group of characters called "the child oni trio" composed of Aobee, Kisuke, and Akone. The series began in 1998, and has been adapted into an anime series which is still being aired. The story follows the titular Ojarumaru, a 5-year-old prince from the Heian era (794 to 1185 CE), who is somehow time-warped to modern Japan. As the young prince navigates modern

Page 76

"Just Like James Dean"

This is a reference to a 1983 hit song that launched the career of Itsumi Osawa, "A Girl Like James Dean." The grammatical structure of Japanese puts "a girl" at the end of the clause, where "Aha-Girl" appears in these interstitial gags. Thus, if the format allowed, a better translation would be "Aha-Girl Like James Dean."

Page 84

"The Comic Artist and His"

This is a reference to another series by Hirayuki, *The Comic Artist and His Assistants*, which ran from 2008 to 2012 in Square Enix's seinen (roughly equivalent to "men aged 18 to 35") manga magazine, *Young Gangan*. An anime adaptation aired in 2014.

Page 90

"Hurricanrana"

The title is the name of a wrestling move in which one wrestler wraps his or her legs around the neck of another, flipping their opponent into a pile driver.

Page 92

"La'cryma"

This refers to a Japanese visual kei rock band named La'cryma Christi (Latin for "the tears of Christ"), which was active from 1991 to 2007.

Page 95

"Super Sayaka Appears on the Scene"

This title, and the subsequent "Super Sayaka 2" and "3" titles, refer to the *Dragon Ball Heroes* video game, in which different Super Saiyan characters appear in numbered installments. These titles therefore mirror a player's progress through the game, encountering different boss characters.

Page 95

"Alcohol isn't for minors, kids!"

The legal drinking age in Japan is 20, which is considered the overall age of adulthood, with some exceptions. A national holiday, Coming of Age Day (Seinen no Hi), celebrates everyone who has turned 20 in the past year.

Page 98

"Full Body Flat"

The Japanese term used here, literally "full-flat body," originates in terminology for cars. Specifically, the term refers to any car where the seats can go into a fully flat position, allowing a person to sleep flat inside the car. Through usage, the term also came to be applied to aircraft carriers (i.e., ships with a flat surface on top). With the release of the *Kantai Collection* ("Fleet Collection" or "Combined Fleet Girls Collection") game in 2013, vari-

the word *umai* or "delicious" is often pronounced with a coarser accent as "umee." Yashika using the word "Umeeba" barely disguises the actual product to avoid any copyright issues, since some consumers may actually pronounce it that way themselves. For the curious, the candy is sold in the form of a tube containing small corn puffs, and is said to have a consistency somewhat similar to Cheetos.

Page 99

"Takenoko no Mura"

This candy name is an only-barely-disguised reference to another famous Japanese candy, "Takenoko no Sata" ("Bamboo Shoot Village"). Both *mura* and *sata* translate to "village," so this is somewhat like the candy in the manga being named "Bamboo Shoot Hamlet." The candy itself is approximately the size of a pencil-tapper eraser, and is a canonical biscuit shaped like a bamboo shoot and partially dipped in chocolate.

Page 96

"Shove It"

The Japanese title makes a pun on two separate meanings of the word *nejikamu*: "protest/complain" and "ram in."

Page 60

"Priority one: sleep. Priority two:"

This is a saying used as a rule of thumb for healthy living. The full saying reads "Priority one: sleep. Priority two: food. Priority three: exercise," although the order of the three elements seems to be up for debate in other versions.

Page 61

"Cultural festival"

A common feature of manga and anime, the school cultural festival is something like an open house at U.S. schools with a more carnival or street fair atmosphere. The various homeroom classes and extracurricular clubs organize exhibits to display their achievements and the atmosphere of the school for visitors. Often, these festivals are open not just to the students' families, but also to the general public, allowing the entire community to see what the school is like and how the students spend their time.

Page 68

"Pure LOVE Academy: Maiden Heart"

This is the name of an imaginary, self-published manga series featured within a live-action TV sitcom called *Urera* ☆ *Mikansei Shaja*, which deals with a low-tier talent agency trying to make it big by landing a great client.

Page 123

In Japanese culture, a raised pinky finger implies a woman, especially a woman of romantic interest such as a girlfriend, wife, or mistress. The mole equivalent is a raised thumb, though since Japan also uses the Western-style "thumbs up" gesture, context is important.

Page 125

"Your grades"

The term glossed here as "grades" is more literally translated "confidential ranking." Confidential ranking is a somewhat arbitrary system of scoring students within a school. Each school determines what subjects are scored and what grading scale is used. A student's performance in the main school subjects like math or history typically factors into the calculation of the confidential ranking, but school activities or other special achievements (like captain of the basketball team) may also be included. Due to this lack of uniformity, these scores do not have any official use, but can influence the academic standing of the student within the school. For example, if her homeroom teacher is sabotaging her, Sayaka could somehow get 100% on all her academic grades and still not be considered the top student in her class, and could be passed over for recommendations or recognitions analogous to valedictorian.

Page 126

"Fixed-term account"

This is something like an IRA or other retirement savings account in the US, where the financial institution offers better interest rates on the understanding that there will be severe penalties for making withdrawals from the account before an agreed-upon date.

Page 128

"Etchy sketchy"

This is part of a nonsense rhyming chant used in some children's games such as tag.

Page 129

"Gyaora"

The Japanese uses the disguised name "Gyaara" for the kaiju (giant monster) toy. This appears to be a reference to a 1967 film called variously *Return of the Giant Monsters*, *Gamera vs. Gyaas*, and *Gamera vs. Goas*, which features two kaiju doing battle against each other: Gamera, a testudine monster, and Gyaas, a pterodactyl-like beast.

"Mika-chan"

"Miko-chan" is a disguised reference to the highly popular "Licca" or "Licca-chan" line of Japanese dress-up dolls, which debuted in 1967. Licca-chan occupies the

ous types of Japanese bottleships were imagined as cute anime girls. Ryuja, one of the aircraft carrier characters, was drawn as particularly flat-chested and underdeveloped in comparison to the other girls, and was therefore teasingly called "full-flat body." Obviously, there is no English equivalent to this particular term.

Page 98

"Kanto"

See the note for page 5 above.

Page 100

"We drink, drinking it in, and drinking it in, we drink"

This is a lyric in Eiga Kawashima's 1975 song "Drinks, Tears, a Man, and a Woman."

Page 112

"4000 6000 6000 2000"

In the web-based *Kantai Collection* game (see note for page 98 above), these numbers refer to the combination of ingredient settings for "fuel," "steel," "ammunition," and "bauxite" needed to unlock the battleship character Yamato, who is then built from these materials in the player's dry-dock.

Page 121

"Yoshio-sama"

As in most cultures, teachers in Japan are considered socially superior to their students and deserving of respect. Therefore, within the Japanese framework of honorific suffixes, teachers have a wide latitude to use any of the suffixes denoting equality or social superiority when addressing their students, or to omit any suffix at all (this is most common with male teachers). This would mean that Oshieda-sensei would, in a typical student-teacher relationship, refer to her students by their last names as "Akutsu-kun" or "Hanabatake-san," as she has done in the past. However, here she is dreamily reminiscing about Yashia, the boy who stole her heart. Contrary to her usual pattern for addressing students, she uses his first name and the reverential -sama suffix. Such a form of address is typical of swooning tween girls admiring an unattainable heartthrob, and shows that Oshieda-sensei has abandoned any thought of her superior, authoritative role as teacher when it comes to this particular student.

Page 122

"What a Nasty Thing You Are!"

This is a reference to a line in Jojo's *Bizarre Adventure*, where the minor antagonist Ciaccalata exclaims "Three?! You want three sweets? Three... what a nasty thing you are!"

game adaptations.

Page 151

"Four Gods of Gesu High"

"The Four Gods" is a common term used to refer to groups of powerful people in manga and anime. The term originally referred to a famous group of four intensely loyal and effective generals who served under Ieyasu Tokugawa, who in turn were named after the Four Heavenly Kings, also known as guardian kings, who in Buddhist tradition are said to each watch over one of the four cardinal directions.

same toy niche as Barbie dolls do in the United States, but her more childish appearance and canonical age of 11 has led to a much larger market share in Japan, where Barbie dolls are also available.

Page 130

"Miko"

While Yoshiko plays as Miko-chan, she refers to herself exclusively as "Miko," never using first person pronouns such as "I," "me," or "my." In English this may sound very imperious and self-absorbed, but in Japanese such a habit is not unusual for children, young women, or in close relationships. For these people, referring to oneself by name may sound cutesy. One theory is that using one's name instead of a proper pronoun shows a lack of awareness of one's relative place in society that may come across as vulnerable or pleasantly naive. This impression may derive from the fact that, in general, the Japanese language does not require pronouns to fully convey concepts. Instead, pronouns such as "I" can be expressed by a wide variety of words that convey certain assumptions about oneself and one's listeners. For example, a man using "watashi" conveys a very different impression from a man using "ore". Therefore, aspiring Japanese speakers are urged to use caution when departing from the neutral norm in referring to themselves.

Page 133

"Damage Effect"

This refers to a trope in various media featuring fight scenes, where the shot focuses on a person receiving a special attack and lingers (often in slow motion) to show the incredible effects of the attack.

Page 136

"The Giants, the Great Bird, and"

This is a phrase used as a byline for 1960s Japan, which was a particularly prosperous era for the country overall. The phrase distills three touchstones of the time: the highly successful and popular baseball team, the Yomiuri Giants; the reigning sumo champion, Koki Taiho (the characters in "Taiho" literally mean "Great Bird"); and *tomogoyaki* (rolled omelet), which was offered as emblematic of the increased affordability of quality foods after the privations of World War II and the subsequent economic and social recovery.

Page 146

"Be-Bop"

This refers to the classic manga *Be-Bop High School*, which features two ruffian high school boys who frequently get into fights with rivals and face other coming-of-age adversities. The manga series ran from 1983 to 2003 and led to several anime, live action, and video

Aho-Girl

\ˈahô,gərl\ *Japanese, noun.*

A clueless girl.

A new series from the creator of *Soul Eater*, the megahit manga and anime seen on Toonami!

"Fun and lively...
a great start!"
-Adventures in
Poor Taste

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By Atsushi Ohkubo

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The Black Museum ^{The} Ghost and the Lady

By Kazuhiro Fujita

Deep in Scotland Yard in London sits an evidence room dedicated to the greatest mysteries of British history. In this “Black Museum” sits a misshapen hunk of lead—two bullets fused together—the key to a wartime encounter between Florence Nightingale, the mother of modern nursing, and a supernatural Man in Grey. This story is unknown to most scholars of history, but a special guest of the museum will tell the tale of The Ghost and the Lady...

Praise for Kazuhiro Fujita’s *Ushio and Tora*

“A charming revival that combines a classic look with modern depth and pacing... **Essential viewing both for curmudgeons and new fans alike.**” — Anime News Network

“**GREAT!** The first episode of *Ushio and Tora* captures the essence of '90s anime.” — IGN

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powerful spirit
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into the ghost
world's greatest
mysteries!

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Both touched by spirits called yōkai, Kotoko and Kurō have gained unique superhuman powers. But to gain her powers Kotoko has given up an eye and a leg, and Kurō's personal life is in shambles. So when Kotoko suggests they team up to deal with renegades from the spirit world, Kurō doesn't have many other choices, but Kotoko might just have a few ulterior motives...

IN/SPECTRE

STORY BY KYO SHIRODAIRA
ART BY CHASHIBA KATASE

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H A P P I N E S S

——ハピネス——

By Shuzo Oshimi

From the creator of *The Flowers of Evil*

Nothing interesting is happening in Makoto Ozaki's first year of high school. His life is a series of quiet humiliations: low-grade bullies, unreliable friends, and the constant frustration of his adolescent lust. But one night, a pale, thin girl knocks him to the ground in an alley and offers him a choice. Now everything is different. Daylight is searingly bright. Food tastes awful. And worse than anything is the terrible, consuming thirst...

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"A shockingly readable story that vividly—one might even say queasily—evokes the fear and confusion of discovering one's own sexuality. Recommended." —The Manga Critic

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over 20 years!

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*New action series from Hiroyuki Takei, creator of
the classic shonen franchise Shaman King!*

In medieval Japan, a bell hanging on the collar is a sign that a cat has a master. Norachiyo's bell hangs from his katana sheath, but he is nonetheless a stray — a ronin. This one-eyed cat samurai travels across a dishonest world, cutting through pretense and deception with his blade.

NekoGallaro

STRAY CAT
SAMURAI

By

Hiroyuki Takei



Having lost his wife, high school teacher Kōhei Inuzuka is doing his best to raise his young daughter Tsumugi as a single father. He's pretty bad at cooking and doesn't have a huge appetite to begin with, but chance brings his little family together with one of his students, the lonely Kotori. The three of them are anything but comfortable in the kitchen, but the healing power of home cooking might just work on their grieving hearts.

"This season's number-one feel-good anime!" —Anime News Network

"A beautifully-drawn story about comfort food and family and grief. Recommended." —Otaku USA Magazine



sweetness & lightning

By Gido Amagakure

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—Anime News Network



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Cells at Work!

はたらく細胞

Aho-Girl: A Clueless Girl 4

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